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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1955

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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report on the work of the Health Department
1955

It is regretted that, following receipt of the printed copies, a number of errors are presented in the above Report: and the enclosed Corrigenda is forwarded with apologies, and the request that the necessary amendments may be made in the copy(ies) of the Report recently forwarded to you.

CORRIGENDA.

- Page 5, Para.2, Line 2. delete "Local Health Authority" and substitute "Local Sanitary Authority".
- : 6, Para.1, Line 6. delete the word "the" before "deaths" and substitute the word "no"
- : 7, Para.1, Line 5. insert the word "and" between "demolition" - "clearance"
- : 7, Para.2, Line 2. insert the word "and" between "Committed" - "of"
- : 7, Para.2, Line 12. end of line insert the word "and" after "for".
- : 10, "Infant Deaths"
After "Total Infant Mortality Rate 14" insert "per 1,000 Live Births"
- : 10, After "Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants 25"
insert "per 1,000 Live Births."
- : 10, "Neo-natal Mortality"
After "Neo-natal Mortality rate 21 per 1,000" delete the word "total"
- : 10, "Maternal Deaths". Delete "Nil" and substitute figure "1".
- : 10, "Maternal Death Rate." delete figure "1" and substitute "2.2 per 1,000 Total Births"
- : 16, Delete the Tuberculosis Table, (New Cases & Deaths), and substitute the following table

Years	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
20	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
Totals	12	7	4	1	3	4	-	-
Grand Totals	19		5		7		-	

- Page 36, Para.1, Line 6. delete the figure "2,210" & substitute "3,868"
- : 36, Para.1, Line 7. delete the figure "3,868" & substitute "5,101"
- : 38, Whole-time Nurse/Midwives
After "Miss L.M.Liptrot", delete figure "26" & substitute "16"
After "Tel.No.Warr". delete figure "429", & substitute "4297"
After "Mrs.K.M.Mc.Carron --- Tel.No.Penketh" delete figure "214" and substitute "2147".
- : 43, Para.3, Line 6. After "Case", substitute comma for full stop: with small "w" for capital "W" in "whilst".



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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman:

Mr. J. UPTON, until May.
Mr. D. H. BREW, J.P., since May.

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. D. H. BREW, J.P., until May.
Mr. W. C. FARRINGTON, since May.

Councillors:

Mr. C. L. BRIMELOW	..	..	..	Penketh.
Mr. W. H. COTTRELL	..	..	..	Poulton-with-Fearnhead.
Mr. R. HANKINSON	..	..	..	Winwick (Houghton).
Mr. J. HURLEY	..	..	..	Sankey.
Mr. J. E. MINSHULL	..	..	..	Winwick (St. Oswald's).
Mr. J. PERRINS, J.P.	..	..	..	Burtonwood.
Mr. J. C. WARBURTON, J.P.	..	..	..	Croft.
Mr. H. B. WRIGHT, J.P.	..	..	..	Cuerdley.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health	..	..	A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	..	..	*W. A. MORRISON, M.R.S.I. M.Inst.P.C., BARRISTER AT LAW.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	..	..	*S. REEVES, B.A., Cert. S.I.B. *W. T. DITCHFIELD, Cert.S.I.B. *N. G. MAYNE, Cert.S.I.B. San Science
Clerical and General Staff	..	..	Mr. J. BARLOW. Mr. F. A. SMITH.
Pupil Inspector	..	..	Mr. B. L. FOX.

*—Qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.)

WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your approval my Annual Report for the Year, 1955, in which, as in previous years, I have included details of work carried out and personal services provided under the provisions of the National Health Service Act 1946 by the Divisional Health Staff of the Lancashire County Council (constituted the "Local Health Authority" under that Act), and other enactments, notably the Children Act of 1948, the Children and Young Persons Act of 1933, and the National Assistance Acts of 1948 and 1949.

I take this course, because, although as the Health Committee of a "Local Health Authority" constituted by the Public Health Acts you bear no direct responsibility for such "personal services", the health of the population of the Rural District, with which I am concerned as Medical Officer of Health, is so obviously dependent on these services, in addition to the more material and constructional "environmental" health responsibilities of the Public Health, Housing, Food & Drugs, Factories and other Acts of Parliament just as the health of mind and body are one and indivisible, so, in my view, despite the administrative dichotomy, are the responsibilities devolving on the "Local Sanitary Authority" and the "Local Health Authority" respectively.

Apart from a slight reduction in the estimated mid-year "home population" (given by the Registrar General as 34,470, as compared with 35,930 in 1954), a slight reduction also in the numbers of live births, deaths, and of the "natural increase" there have been no material changes in the vital statistics: and the only adverse figures to which I must draw attention are those for Still-births and for "Maternal" deaths. In the former, a total of 11 stillbirths gives a

rate per 1,000 total births of 24, which although almost twice the rate for the previous year, and the highest since 1952, is yet much the same as the average for the previous five years—the quinquennial mean—which was 24 per 1,000 total births. The one “maternal death”—(due to causes associated with pregnancy and parturition)—unfortunately breaks the excellent record of the deaths classified as due to such causes, which has been held since 1948, when the last one occurred. But in the present year the cause of the death in question was exceptionally unusual, and one which is unlikely to recur for many years to come.

On the “credit” side of the balance sheet both the total infant mortality and the neo-natal mortality rates are lower than a year ago, and slightly lower than the corresponding quinquennial means : whilst the Cancer mortality rate also shews an improvement on the figures for the last two years, the proportion (of total deaths)—due to cancer being lower than at any time during the last five years.

An analysis of the principal causes of death shews a pattern very similar to that of previous years. Diseases of the heart and circulation account for 189 deaths out of the grand total of 329, a proportion of 57 per cent, or well over one half. Of these no fewer than 42 were due to coronary artery disease or angina, 36 to vascular diseases of the nervous system (generally called “strokes”), and 95 to other forms of heart disease, principally of rheumatic origin. Next in order of magnitude as a cause of death comes, cancer, with a total of 46 cases, shewing a preponderance of male deaths to female in the proportion of 28 to 18, and including 11 cases of cancer of the lungs or bronchi, of which 9 were males : thirdly we have a very heterogeneous group of illnesses classified as “other defined and ill-defined diseases,” which caused 31 deaths, followed in fourth place by diseases of the lungs and bronchi (exclusive of cancer) which total 29 and includes one case of “Influenza”. Violence of one type or another resulted in 15 deaths—(little more than one half the total for 1954)—of which, rather surprisingly, only one was due to a motor vehicle accident, 12 to other types of accidents and 2 to suicide.

The moderate total of 324 notifications received in respect of Notifiable diseases of all kinds, inclusive of respiratory and other forms of tuberculosis, is much in keeping with the 317 cases recorded in 1954, but shewing a rather different distribution as between individual diseases : for instance, although the combined Measles—Whooping Cough total of 188 shows little change from the comparative figure of 199 in 1954, there was last year a heavier preponderance of Measles, which accounted for 198 notifications as against 1 of Whooping Cough. This year, on the other hand, Measles accounted for 155 and Whooping Cough for 33. Again, the 1954 total included no notifications of food poisoning, whereas during the current report year there have been no fewer than 65 cases, the majority of which resulted from two outbreaks, both fortunately limited in extent, one

at Winwick Hospital, and one at the R.A.F. Camp at Padgate. (Of these, only one or two persons were in any way seriously affected : these were associated with the hospital outbreak). The number of pneumonia cases was also considerably fewer than in the previous year (8 as compared with 22), as were the number of deaths due to this disease. Finally although the total Tuberculosis notifications (24) were a little lower than in 1954 (29), the number of these in respect of respiratory tuberculosis, (19), in the current year was appreciably less than last year (27). There were no cases at all of Diphtheria, the Enteric group fevers, Ophthalmia neonatorum, Meningococcal infection, or poliomyelitis : and only one of puerperal pyrexia.

The principal requirements of the Rural District, as far as " environmental " health measures are concerned, are as follows :— additional new housing, and the renovation and repair of houses capable of being made " reasonably fit " for habitation, coupled with the individual demolition, clearance of unfit houses : reduction in the pollution of rivers and streams, in effecting which the sewerage schemes at present in progress will make a material contribution : the improvement of water supplies, (particularly as regards quantity and pressure) in certain areas : and the improved control of tipping sites. As regards the " personal " health services, the responsibility of the County Council through the Divisional Health Committee, one of the most urgent needs—and one which has been felt for many years, is the provision of two " all purpose " clinics, one in the Sankey and Penketh area, and one in the Padgate and Woolston area, to accommodate school health services both general and special ; Infant welfare centres ; Welfare food distribution centres, ante-natal and post natal clinics ; and dental services for expectant and nursing mothers, as well as for school children. In Woolston the site for such a clinic has been agreed with the Education Authority, but the actual construction of the premises has not yet commenced : in Sankey and Penketh, however, no similar plans are in being.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and to every Member of the Health Committee of the Council, for your constant interest and support during the year under review in this Report, with which, of course, is incorporated the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector, covering the work carried out by himself, his Assistant Inspectors, the Administrative Assistant and other members of the Staff of your Health Department, which does, I can assure you, work in the most cordial contact with those other Departments of the Council, the members of which, directly or indirectly, are associated with both environmental and personal health services. To all my staff colleagues in these other departments I would express my thanks for appreciation of their willing and ever helpful co-operation : whilst in my own department it is very right and proper that I should pay

tribute to Mr. Morrison for his very efficient and capable day to day administration, his loyalty, and the very high standard of technical proficiency which he displays in his own particular sphere of work.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SECTION I.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Warrington Rural District is situate in the South-west of the County of Lancaster. It is bordered on the North by the districts of the County Borough of St. Helens and the Urban Districts of Newton-le-Willows and Golborne ; to the East is the Urban District of Irlam, and on the West is the Rural District of Whiston and the Borough of Widnes. The southern boundary, which is also the County boundary, is the Manchester Ship Canal, and the northern perimeter of Warrington County Borough.

The area of the district is approximately 35 square miles, being 14 miles from east to west, with a narrow waist of about two miles in the centre between Warrington and Newton, broadening to an average width of about six miles.

Agriculture is the principal occupation in the area, but there are in the more urban parishes a variety of industries, including tanning, light engineering, brewing, brick making and paint manufacture.

The area is, as a whole, comparatively low-lying with only a gentle undulation to relieve the otherwise flat landscape. The fall of the land is to the south, with the streams and brooks discharging into the River Mersey, which winds its way across the southern portion of the district only slightly to the north of the Manchester Ship Canal.

DISTRICT STATISTICS.

Area (acres) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	22,733
Estimated population, 1955	..	..	..	..	34,470
Number of inhabited houses and flats	..	..	..	..	7,296
Rateable value .. .. .	..	..	..	..	£203,480
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	..	..	..	..	£770
Births assignable to district	..	..	..	..	439
Deaths assignable to district	..	..	..	..	329
“ Natural increase ” .. .. .	..	..	..	..	110

SECTION II.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	226	203	429
Illegitimate	6	4	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	232	207	439
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rates—" Crude " 12·7 ; " Adjusted " 15·9 per 1,000
Population ; Comparability factor 1·25.

	M.	F.	Total
STILL BIRTHS	7	4	11

Still Birth rate—24 per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

DEATHS :	M.	F.	Total
General	183	146	329

Death Rates—" Crude " 9·5 ; " Adjusted " 14·6
Comparability factor 1·53.

The " Adjusted " Death Rate is the " Crude " Death Rate
after adjustment by a " comparability factor " supplied
by the Registrar General.

INFANT DEATHS (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age) :

Total Infant Mortality Rate—14.

	M.	F.	Total
Infant Deaths	10	1	11

Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants—25.
Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants—Nil.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY :

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks—9.
Neo-natal mortality rate—21 per 1,000 total live births.

MATERNAL DEATHS—Nil.

Maternal Death Rate—1.

VITAL STATISTICS—COMPARATIVE TABLE

YEAR	LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)		STILLBIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY			CANCER MORTALITY			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	TOTAL		NEO-NATAL		No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	Per- centage of all deaths		
							No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births					
1955	439	*12.7	329	*9.5	11	24	1	2.22	11	25	9	21	46	1.33	13.9
1954	464	*12.9	331	*9.2	6	13	Nil	Nil	14	30	11	24	55	1.5	16.6
1953	481	12.8	331	8.8	10	20	Nil	Nil	14	29	9	19	54	1.4	16.3
1952	455	11.6	225	5.7	16	34	Nil	Nil	14	31	9	20	35	0.9	15.5
1951	487	13.6	241	6.7	7	14	Nil	Nil	19	39	9	18	35	1.0	14.5
1950	429	13.0	225	6.8	20	45	Nil	Nil	12	28	5	12	34	1.03	15.1
Average 5 years 1950—1954	..	12.9	..	7.4	..	25	..	Nil	..	31	..	..	43	1.1	15.6

-ADJUSTED
Live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.25) @ 15.9 per 1,000
Death-rate (comparability factor, 1.53) @ 14.6 per 1,000

COMPARISON OF BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY.

	Warrington Rural. 1954.	England & Wales. 1955.	1955.
	Rate per 1,000 population.		
BIRTHS—			
Live	12·9	12·7	15·0
Still	0·6	0·29	0·35
DEATHS—			
All causes (Adjusted)	9·2	14·6	11·7
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ..	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·00	0·00	0·00
Diphtheria	0·00	0·00	0·00
Tuberculosis	0·41	0·20	0·15
Influenza	0·02	0·00	0·07
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00
Ac. Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis ..	0·00	0·00	0·06
Pneumonia	0·03	0·32	0·49
NOTIFICATIONS—			
Typhoid Fever.....	0·00	0·00	0·00
Paratyphoid Fever	0·00	0·00	0·02
Meningococcal Infection	0·00	0·00	0·03
Scarlet Fever	1·75	0·98	0·73
Whooping Cough	0·00	0·98	1·78
Diphtheria	0·00	0·00	0·00
Erysipelas	0·00	0·08	0·10
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles	5·51	4·49	15·61
Pneumonia	0·61	0·23	0·63
Ac. Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis) : Paralytic	0·00	0·00	0·08
Non-Paralytic	0·00	0·00	0·06
Food Poisoning	0·00	1·88	0·29
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
DEATHS—			
All causes under 1 year of age	30	25	24·9
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0·00	0·00	0·00
MATERNAL MORTALITY—			
Excluding Abortion	0·00	2·22	0·54
Due to Abortion	0·00	0·00	0·10
	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births.		
NOTIFICATIONS—			
Puerperal Pyrexia	0·00	0·00	0·27

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 269; 13 of these were of persons whose usual place of residence was outside the district; these have been assigned to the areas in which they formerly resided.

73 deaths of persons normally residing in this area, but dying elsewhere, have been included in the total deaths properly assignable to this district.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	183	146	329
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	4	7
Tuberculosis—other forms	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
" " lung, bronchus	7	2	9
" " breast	—	1	1
" " uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	15	10	25
Leukemia, aleukemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	26	10	36
Coronary disease, angina	30	12	42
Hypertension with heart disease	5	2	7
Other heart diseases	35	60	95
Other circulatory disease	5	4	9
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	7	5	12
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	3	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	4	1	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	15	31
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
All other accidents	7	5	12
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

SECTION III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1955

There were 300 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. These tables show the number, by age groups, of Infectious Diseases notified, and the number removed to Hospital.

D I S E A S E	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 & Over	Total cases removed to Hospital	Cases occurring in Winwick Hospital
Scarlet Fever	34	..	3	8	22	1	..	..	..	..
Measles.....	155	3	31	38	81	1	1	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	33	2	8	6	15	1	..	1	..	..
Poliomyelitis.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Under 5	5—14	15—44	45—64	65 & Over				
Typhoid Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..			..	..
Pneumonia	8	1	..	5	1	1			..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	1	..	..			..	..
Dysentery.....	1	..	..	1	..	..			..	..
Erysipelas.....	3	..	..	2	..	1			..	..
Food Poisoning	65	..	1	37	15	12			..	..

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—COMPARATIVE TABLE

DISEASE	1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		1950		Mean of Years 50—54	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	34	..	63	..	51	..	53	..	71	..	193	..	86	..
Diphtheria .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	155	..	198	..	239	..	480	..	293	..	244	..	291	..
Whooping Cough	33	..	1	..	118	..	53	..	67	..	95	..	67	..
Enteric group Fevers .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	1	..	3	..	83	..	13	..	57	..	8	..	164	..
Food Poisoning	65	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	4	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	2	1	1	..
Meningococcal Infection ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	..	1
Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	8	11	22	15	23	13	19	6	48	8	55	6	34	10
Erysipelas	3	..	1	..	8	..	10	..	6	..	3	..	6	..
Tuberculosis respiratory ..	19	7	27	15	37	14	25	3	19	5	14	11	24	10
Tuberculosis non-respi- ratory	5	..	2	..	..	..	3	2	5	1	3	1	3	1
TOTAL	324	18	317	30	577	27	662	12	573	15	617	21	681	22

TUBERCULOSIS.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
20	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
25	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
35 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	16	8	3	..	..	..	..	..
Grand Totals	24		3		..		..

CASES OF RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY
TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER

YEAR	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1951	49	31	80	20	20	40
1952	62	40	102	21	19	40
1953	81	50	131	21	19	40
1954	97	56	153	22	22	44
1955	106	58	164	24	23	47

SECTION IV.

FOOD HYGIENE.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following details of food samples taken under the above Act, have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

A total of 170 samples was obtained ; of these 142 were of milk (this total includes 3 Channel Islands milk) and the 28 others comprised :—

2 Fruit, canned	1 Tartaric acid
2 Coffee	1 Cream of tartar
1 Coffee and chicory	1 Sodium bicarbonate
1 Coffee extract, dry	2 Lemon squash
6 Baking powder	(concentrated)
4 Margarine	1 Orange squash
1 Sugar	(concentrated)
2 Castor sugar	1 Grapefruit squash
2 Icing sugar	(concentrated)

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

All premises used for the preparation and storage of food-stuffs, grocers, butchers, ice-cream suppliers and bakehouses were inspected. While the present standard of all premises may be classified as satisfactory the new Food Hygiene Regulations, coming into force in 1956 will mean quite an increase of work in this sphere. The supervision of canteens in factories, etc., is included in Section VII of this Report.

ICE-CREAM

Number of Retail Vendors registered	25
Number of Bacteriological samples taken	47
Result of samples	Grade 1 31
	Grade 2 12
	Grade 3 3
	Grade 4 1

In general it may be taken that Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory and we thus have a total of 4 unsatisfactory samples out of a total of 47

There is now no ice-cream manufactured in the area, and the retailers now registered sell pre-packed Ice-cream only.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Routine milk sampling has continued throughout the year for the purpose of bacteriological analysis, which aims at ensuring a general standard of purity as regards the total number of organisms which affects the keeping quality of milk (Methylene Blue Tests), the efficiency of pasteurisation processes (the Phosphatase Test) and is concerned specifically as to the presence in the samples of the bacillus of tuberculosis, the bovine species of which is of course the cause of tuberculosis diseases in bones, joints and lymphatic glands, and may also attack other organs of the body.

The results of samples submitted to various tests are :—

Raw Milk	No. of Samples	No. Unsatis.
Tuberculosis—Biological Test	3	—

HEAT TREATED MILK

“ Pasteurised Milk ”		
Phosphatase Test	125	—
Methylene Blue Reduction Test.	124	2
“ Sterilised Milk ”		
Turbidity Test	4	—

In all cases of positive results of test for tuberculosis information is forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of Ministry of Agriculture who arranges for veterinary inspections to be carried out at the farms concerned.

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations were as follows :—

Designation	Regulations	Type of Licence	No. Issued.
Tuberculin Tested	Milk (Special Designation) Raw Milk Regs. 1949.	Dealer's	12
Tuberculin Tested	do.	Supplementary	10
Pasteurised	Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk) Regs. 1949	Dealer's	11
Pasteurised	do.	Supplementary	10
Pasteurised T.T.	do.	Dealer's	6
Pasteurised T.T.	do.	Supplementary	5
Sterilised	do.	Dealer's	30
Sterilised	do.	Supplementary	1

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The bulk of this work continues at a Bacon factory where line dressing is in progress and which places on the Inspector a responsibility which has to be resolved within probably no more than one minute. This duty is exacting and demands both mental and physical output which is not generally appreciated.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle, Calves and Sheep			Pigs		
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
Number killed (if known) ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	41,235	49,557	52,198
Number inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	41,235	49,557	52,198
All diseases, except T.B.:						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	37	24	52
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,866	2,576	2,402
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	Nil	Nil	Nil	4·6%	5·2%	4·7%
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	186	169	142
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,166	1,062	868
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	3·3%	2·5%	1·9%

OTHER FOOD-STUFFS CONDEMNED.

Of the food inspected the following was voluntarily surrendered. This class of food-stuff is examined on special request or in the course of routine visits to food premises.

196 tins fruit.
 325 tins meat.
 442 tins vegetable.
 76 tins milk.
 3,123 tins fish.
 406 lbs. dried vegetables.
 631 lbs. mixed dried fruit.
 540 lbs. flour.
 446 lbs. biscuits.
 30 lbs. sugar.
 37 lbs. coffee.
 25 lbs. tea.
 31 lbs. jam.
 98 lbs. chocolate.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 TO 1954.

There are 19 Slaughtermen holding licences granted by this Authority.

SECTION V.

HOUSING

The number of inhabited houses and flats in the area is gradually rising and now totals 7,296. New construction is gaining pace and shows a most creditable increase since 1953, an increase which is due to private developers. The average number of houses completed by the Council each year since 1948 is 81 and this year private houses completed number 112.

Under the Housing Act 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, 16 applications were made for financial assistance for the improvements of housing accommodation and £2,589/10/- was granted for this purpose. It is significant that these applications are, in the main, made by Owner/occupiers. The number of cases qualifying for an increase of rent consequent on houses being put into a good state of repair was insignificant.

There were submitted to the Minister proposals for dealing with houses which appeared to be unfit for human habitation. A figure, based on preliminary inspections of 195 is being taken as a target and 27 houses were either closed or demolished as part of this programme.

A survey of the applications for Council houses reveals that the number of families who “ need ” houses from a Public Health aspect is a small fraction of the total and that further approximately 200 cases still on the list no longer require houses.

The vast majority of houses were erected after 1919, and the number of really bad houses is comparatively low, but the rehousing problem is still difficult.

New Council housing developments are extremely hampered by the lack of sewerage facilities and until such facilities exist considerable embarrassment must occur in certain parishes.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

	Prefabricated			Traditional		
	Temporary.		Permanent.	Permanent		
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955
Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	80	88	87
Other bodies and persons	Nil	Nil	Nil	22	73	112

CARAVANS.

Under the Public Health Act 1936, Local Authorities may grant Licences to persons to allow land occupied by them to be used as a site for caravans or to a person to permit him to occupy a caravan. There are special exceptions, but in general this may be taken to be the rule.

Standard conditions for site licences are in force and 2 sites are licensed. Personal licences were issued in 64 cases and the extent of this particular duty may be gauged by the fact that no less than 446 visits were made by Inspectors.

The use of a moveable dwelling in this area is purely for housing purposes ; either because permanent housing accommodation is required, or the occupier prefers to live in a caravan, or housing accommodation is required for a temporary period only. Fortunately, the bad type of occupant and the number of structurally unsatisfactory vans have been kept to a minimum by vigorous action.

INSPECTION OF EXISTING PROPERTIES.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) | 352 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 1,300 |
| 2. | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 22 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 287 |

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 240 |
|----|---|-----|

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	45
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	1

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Miscellaneous (General Provisions) Act, 1953 17

LEGAL ACTION.

<i>Case.</i>	<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>Court decision.</i>
Case No. 1: Roof		4th January, Nuisance Order granted work to be completed within 28 days. 6th April, Penalty £2 for non compliance with Order. 20th July, Penalty 1/- per day.

- Case No. 2: Doors and windows. 16th February,
Case adjourned until 16th
March, work put in hand.
11th March,
Case withdrawn work completed.
- Case No. 3: Burst hot waterpipes. 6th April,
Case withdrawn tenant to pay
out of rent.

SECTION VI.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A piped supply of water extends throughout the area, with the exception of some isolated farms and cottages. The principal supplier is Warrington Corporation, but a small area of Cuerdley parish is supplied by Liverpool Corporation.

In general the supply is good both in quality and quantity, but serious shortages have occurred from time to time in Burtonwood, Great Sankey and Padgate.

Efforts have been made by the Warrington Corporation to increase the supply in these particular parishes but not entirely with success.

From Public Mains				From Private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
PARISH	Direct to houses	By means of stand pipe			
	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population
Burtonwood	715	2	5	4	12
Croft	431	4	15	1	3
Cuerdley	45	..	..	..	..
Penketh	1,256	..	..	..	..
Poulton	1,532	..	..	1	4
Rixton	556	..	..	1	3
Sankey	1,508	..	..	..	..
Winwick plus Mental Hospital	457	1	3	3	10
Woolston	821	..	..	..	..
Totals	7,321	7	23	10	32

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The area is traversed from north to south by two main streams—the Sankey Brook and the River Glaze. Across the southern boundary runs the River Mersey, the eventual outlet for these streams. There are several smaller brooks winding through the area, but none of any particular note.

The fact that these brooks exist seems to have provided a wonderful opportunity for building development—a ready-made drainage system to hand. The rapid development of the area since the middle twenties has now changed these brooks into open sewers.

The development of proper sewerage systems are required to remove the extensive pollution and, until this occurs, then our rivers and streams will remain as such in name only.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage from over 70 per cent. of the properties in this area consists of treatments in a septic tank with a subsequent discharge of the effluent into the nearest ditch or stream.

The cleansing of these septic tanks and ditches is carried out by the Surveyor's Department by means of a mechanical cesspool emptier. In general, efforts are made to cleanse each tank once each twelve months and this is done as a charge on the rates. Where however, for some reason this service is required within that period then the ratepayer is charged. Commercial properties are not included in the general scheme and are charged for whatever service is rendered.

The provision of a new sewer from Chapel Lane, Burtonwood, to the Sankey Valley sewer will mean that this small works will become redundant and what had become in fact a nuisance removed. A small settling tank and circular filter deals with an estate in Glazebrook, but, again, the effluent is unsatisfactory. A small treatment works dealing with effluent from a Council housing estate has been gradually improved although its position leaves much to be desired; regular maintenance has kept it free from nuisance. The remaining sewage drains via septic tanks of varying size and construction to the open sewers, i.e. the streams.

Several schemes are in hand for the sewerage of the more urbanised parishes.

A scheme for the parishes of Poulton-with-Fearnhead and Woolston has been approved and preliminary works for the project have been put in hand.

A revised scheme for Penketh and Great Sankey is being submitted to the Ministry for final approval and it is hoped that a starting date will soon be fixed.

With the exception of the treatment works the Sankey Valley scheme is now almost completed. A main drainage scheme has been prepared for Winwick, approval for which is hoped to be received during 1954. At Croft a scheme is being developed for the existing and proposed Council estate together with the central area of the village proper. Burtonwood and Collins Green will be improved unmeasurably by schemes for the extension and improvement of sewers with outfalls into the Sankey Valley scheme. A sewage treatment works scheme is being prepared for the Hollins Green area of Rixton.

The next few years will show a big change in sewerage facilities and the completion of the schemes now in hand and envisaged will see the fruition of many years hard work.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse, together with its ancillary functions by the Local Authority, is under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The collection service, which is weekly, is carried out by special-type refuse vehicles, with loaders' cabs. Due to the fairly long distances that machines have to travel from the depot, the inclusion of the loaders in the driver's cab is obviously a desirable feature. Certainly the weather protection and additional safety provided appear to be thoroughly appreciated by the workmen.

The collection of pail contents is carried out weekly by a similar machine. A detachable tank is mounted on rollers inside the body, a method which simplifies both loading and unloading. Supplies of both liquid and powder disinfectants are carried in order that pail compartments and pails may be treated as required. This procedure is far from satisfactory, but is probably as effective as any other under the circumstances. The only solution to this problem is the conversion of the pail closets as rapidly as possible to a water-carriage system.

All workmen are provided with protective clothing, and although this provision is by no means cheap, yet it is a feature that is now a necessity if workmen are to be encouraged to engage in this class of work.

The provision of dustbins and sanitary pails is carried out by the Local Authority as a rate charge and enables unsatisfactory bins and pails to be replaced with the minimum of delay. The storage of refuse at the home, pending collection, must obviously be in a hygienic manner, and this can only be effected by the provision of a proper receptacle. B.S.S. bins are purchased in bulk and delivered weekly. Weekly reports are received from each driver, of the bins and pails requiring replacement, the addresses are checked in a card index file, the bin or pail is inspected, and delivery receipts are signed by the householder. Where a bin is being mis-used, a visit is paid by an inspector, when the householder is warned that they will be held liable for replacement. Three sizes of bins are issued— $3\frac{1}{4}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 cubic feet, the size of bin being decided by the type of house and size of family.

A scheme for the quarterly inspection of vehicles by a sub-committee at which points are awarded for maintenance and cleanliness has provided a competitive spirit in this work, and the

monetary prizes awarded appear to take second place to the pride which the winning driver takes in his achievement. This scheme has raised vehicle care and maintenance to a higher level and ensures that each driver becomes fully cognisant of what is required of him.

The disposal of dry refuse takes place at several tips throughout the area, and, although sometimes they are not as "controlled" as one would wish, they are a decided improvement over past methods of disposal. A Chaseside Light Excavator-cum-Bulldozer has been replaced with a Howard Bulloader to excavate, soil and cover the tipping sites. Wire netting screens are provided to prevent nuisance by blowing paper, and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the sites are satisfactory.

The gradually-increasing number of houses of the semi-detached and detached type, and the conversion of hostel sites into flats has, because of long carries, considerably increased the collection time since the end of the war. A special twice weekly collection of refuse is made from certain hostel sites. For these additional services a special charge is made.

STATISTICS:

Machines employed—

Karrier Bantam with "Derby" body	2
Karrier CK.3, with "Derby" body	3
Karrier CK.3, Refuse Collector, with standard steel body	1
Karrier Gamecock (since April, 1953)	1
Commer van	1
Chaseside Excavator	1
Trailers	3
Platypus Tractor (since October 1955)	1

Workmen—

Number of Drivers	7
„ „ Labourers, all classes	24
Foreman	1

Dustbins and Pails—

Number of Dustbins provided	508
„ „ Pails provided	154

Loads tipped by the R.A.F., Croft, Woolston:—

117 loads £14 12s. 6d.

Income from Trade Refuse collections :—

£670 11s. 6d.

SALVAGE.

The direct collection of Salvage has been confined solely to waste paper and cardboard. Due to the scattered nature of the area and the number of tipping sites, it is not considered that other materials could be separated and sold at a profit.

The collection of waste paper is made by means of large, covered trailers behind a refuse collection vehicle. The provision of a smart trailer serves a two-fold purpose—a good advertisement, and, secondly, an eminently suitable collection method.

Shops and large business premises are visited once each week by a special vehicle. The sorting of paper at tips is not as thorough or as satisfactory as one would wish, due to the soiling of paper after mixing with household refuse.

STATISTICS:

The amount of waste paper sold during the last three years was as follows :—

		tons	cwts.	qrs.		£	s.	d.
1953	.....	236	5	2	....	1,637	17	11
1954	.....	297	3	0	....	2,270	7	4
1955	.....	320	9	3	....	2,880	6	4

A bonus is paid to workmen on the weight of paper collected each month above a fixed datum figure. Salvage prices have continued to fluctuate but a steady rise appears to be indicated. This trend has enabled only a reasonable income to be obtained, in spite of the fact that this is the highest amount of paper ever collected.

RODENT CONTROL.

The recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are pursued in this sphere of work. One operative is engaged whole-time and one part-time, and the methods used are those recommended by the Ministry. Both the operative and the general foreman have undertaken special instruction courses organised by the Ministry.

All Local Authority's properties, refuse tips, sewerage works, etc., were regularly inspected and treated. The sewers and sewer ditches were test-baited and treated where necessary.

On private properties treatment is carried out by agreement. Private houses are charged where the costs are recoverable, but all business premises are charged the full cost of treatment. The two offensive trade factories are both classed as areas of reservoir infestation, and both have private contracts in force with service operators.

This work is now the duty of a Local Authority, and effective measure must be undertaken to ensure that the rat population is kept to a minimum. The interest of the Central Authority is obvious by the fact that a 50 per cent. grant on approved expenditure is obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

STATISTICS:

The number of infestation treatments were as follows :—

	Major.	Minor.
Business premises	1	21
Private dwellings	—	146
Local Authority	1	136

In addition, 89 manholes were test-baited.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Regular observations have been made of all factory chimneys for smoke emission. No serious problem is created in the area, but where necessary informal steps have been taken to bring to the notice of the management the nuisance being created. It is pleasing to note that in this branch of work pleasant and effective relations are maintained with the factory managers, so that formal proceedings have been completely unnecessary.

VERMINOUS AND FILTHY PREMISES.

The days when the serious infestation by bugs, of numbers of houses, seem to have gone, certainly so in this district. The residual toxicity of D.D.T. seems to have provided a long-awaited answer to the problem. Very few houses required treatment and, of these, the infestations were not heavy.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades in the area, both of which require considerable supervision. The trades carried out are fat extraction, bone boiling, and glue making. One factory is also combined with a Knackers' yard and produces pet foods.

Control is exercised by means of issuing quarterly licences only to each factory. This procedure is considered more effective than the issue of statutory notices.

To prevent flies, each factory carries out spray patrol, whereby the whole of the premises are treated with D.D.T. insecticides. This system has proved of marked benefit.

Premises in Risley, used for breeding maggots for use as fish bait, not legally an Offensive Trade, have been regularly visited to ensure that a reasonable standard of cleanliness and control is maintained.

This class of work takes up a surprising amount of inspectorial time, particularly in the warmer months of the year, and yet it is only by maintaining regular and continued visits that satisfactory results are obtained.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION OF HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.

The fact that the majority of houses in the area are of comparatively modern construction, and that ditches and streams were available for the discharge of effluents has, in spite of the lack of sewerage systems, been responsible for the majority having water closets with treatment by means of a septic tank. Over 70 per cent. of the houses in the district are so fitted. The remaining number are provided with pail closets.

Preliminary steps are in hand to connect sewers in the central areas of Burtonwood and Collins Green to the Sankey Valley sewer and as the work required is comparatively small energetic action should enable pail closets to be converted to water carriage in the early future.

The sewerage scheme in Poulton and Woolston is not yet at such an advanced state of development when the question of conversions can be considered.

SECTION VII.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are now 39 factories registered in the area, the principal ones being engaged in tanning, light engineering, wire-rope making and brewing. Routine inspections have been made and the attention of H.M. Inspector of Factories has been drawn to matters within his jurisdiction.

Particular attention has been paid to the standards of hygiene practised in the canteens. Some of these are maintained and run to the highest standards, but in others, constant supervision is necessary. A special approach is made to each manageress and staff to ensure that scrupulous attention is paid to personal hygiene. Circulars and posters have been provided for use within the canteens and kitchens.

Good co-operation has existed with all factory managements and in no case has there been any necessity for statutory action on any of the matters for which the Local Authority is responsible.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Certain duties in the inspection of shops devolve on this Authority and certain others on the County Council. The inspectoral duties of the County Council have now been delegated to this Authority. The procedure is for half-yearly reports to be sent to the County on the matters for which it holds responsibility for action to be taken where necessary. It is unfortunate that this procedure tends to discourage the Inspector concerned from taking more than a cursory interest in this sphere of work.

It has not been found necessary to take statutory action to secure any of the requirements under the purview of this Council, all recommendations having been dealt with informally.

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE STORAGE.

The number of Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium are as follows :—

Number of Licences to store Petroleum	59
„ „ gallons of storage capacity	71,010
„ „ Licences to store Carbide	4
Total amount of Carbide permitted	lbs. 3,792
Number of Licences to store other spirits	5

Total amount of Fees paid :—	£	s.	d.
Petroleum	41	0	0
Carbide of Calcium.....	1	10	0
Cellulose	1	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£43	15	0
	<hr/>		

The renewal of licences for the storage of petroleum and carbide is at the end of each year and it has not proved possible to carry out as many inspections as one would wish. These have been confined to new premises and the testing of underground storage tanks at the older petrol stations.

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE.

Inspections have been carried out under the Public Health Act 1936 and the Factories Act 1937 to ensure that adequate means of escape in case of fire are provided to the type of premises controlled. Owing to the frequent changes which take place in factory organisations, these inspections and the preparation of certificates involve your Inspectors in a considerable amount of work.

Number of Certificates issued 18

SECTION VIII.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

1955

Water supply	46
Drainage	776
Stables and Piggeries	48
Offensive Trades	92
Fried Fish Shops	13
Tents, Vans and Sheds	446
Canal Boats	5
Factories	59
Workplaces	2
Bakehouses	12
Licensed Premises	34
Refuse Collection	308
„ Disposal	212
Defective Bins	732
„ Pails	107
Rats and Mice	62
Atmospheric pollution	8
Schools	40
Shops Act	257
Salvage	190
Petroleum	36
Housing Applications and Visits	87
Means of Escape in Case of Fire	4
Miscellaneous	114

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	352
Visits paid to above houses	1,300

UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	108
Visits paid to above houses	142

OVERCROWDING

Number of houses inspected	4
Visits paid to above houses	6

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Number of houses inspected	17
Visits paid to above houses	25
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	64

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	44
Visits <i>re</i> disinfection	17
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	5

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Visits to Slaughter-houses	331
„ „ Other premises	4
Total Meat Inspection Visits	335
Visits to Butchers	9
„ „ Grocers	4
„ „ Greengrocers and Fruiterers	4
„ „ Dairies and Milkshops	15
„ „ Ice-cream premises	18
„ „ Food preparing premises	42
„ „ Restaurants	46
„ „ Canteens	29

Milk samples:—

Bacteriological	137
T.B.	3
Ice-cream samples	50
Miscellaneous food visits	23

SECTION IX.

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens, samples of milk, food, "swabs," etc., for bacteriological investigation are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service, either at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, or the Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Monsall, Manchester. The chemical analysis of water supplies and of samples of food and drugs is undertaken at the County Analyst's Department, County Offices, Preston.

(2) HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board: Warrington and District Hospital Management Committee).

The district contains no general hospitals within its boundaries, but it is, of course, well served by those within the County Borough of Warrington; the Warrington Infirmary and the General Hospital, Warrington, for both general and specialised types of cases, e.g., orthopaedic and maternity cases; the latter type of case from the Rural District is admitted also to the Warrington Maternity Home, Victoria Park, Latchford. Cases of infectious disease (other than Smallpox) requiring hospital treatment are accommodated at the Isolation Hospital, Warrington; cases of Smallpox, should these occur, are admitted to the special Smallpox Hospital at Rock Ferry, Cheshire, belonging to the Port of Liverpool Sanitary Authority.

In addition to the above, accommodation in hospitals administered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee is not uncommonly utilised by residents in the Rural area, particularly the County Hospital, Whiston, for maternity cases. Finally, cases requiring highly specialised treatment for pediatric, orthopaedic, ophthalmic, gynaecological and ear, nose and throat defects may be admitted by arrangement to any of the "teaching hospitals" attached to the Universities of Liverpool or Manchester.

(3) AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Full responsibility for the Ambulance Services to be provided under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act rests with the Lancashire County Council, as the Local Health Authority. This

Rural District, enclosing as it does the northerly boundaries of The Warrington County Borough, for its greater part is serviced by ambulances of the County Borough operating on behalf of the County Council, the parishes so served being those of Penketh, Great Sankey, Burtonwood (part), Winwick (part), Croft, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Woolston, and Rixton-with-Glazebrook. The remainder of the district is served directly by the County Ambulance Service from the ambulance stations at Newton-le-Willows (Newton-le-Willows 2013), which deals with the northerly parts of the parishes of Burtonwood and Winwick, and at Mill Brow, Widnes (Widnes 2121), which deals with the Parish of Cuerdley.

Cases conveyed by ambulance from the Newton-le-Willows and adjoining county stations during the year totalled 1,233, of which 179 were emergency, 1,045 general and 9 cases of infectious disease. In addition, the County Borough Ambulance Service, on behalf of the County Council, transported 164 emergency, 3,696 general and 8 infectious cases, making a total of 2,210, and a combined total of 3,868.

(4) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

School Health Service : School Clinics.

Schoolchildren in attendance at schools within the Rural area who require advice and treatment at a school clinic are referred to the Clinics at Widnes, Prescott, Earlestown and Cadishead, where general medical advice and treatment facilities for minor ailments, dental, ophthalmic and orthopaedic defects are available.

It is, however, a matter for great regret that no school clinic premises are available in the area at which special inspections could be carried out and specialist advice and treatment (ophthalmic, orthopaedic and, of course, dental) obtained. However, to give really effective cover to the district from the school health aspect would mean two clinics, one in the Penketh and Sankey and one in the Padgate and Woolston areas, and this provision can hardly be justified by the school population concerned.

Child Welfare Centres.

Sessions are held at the Infant Welfare Centres detailed below. At these centres medical and nursing advice is available for all infants and for children of pre-school age, also for expectant mothers and those recently confined, in relation to matters affecting their general health. Supplies of a variety of infant foods, vitamin preparations, etc., are also available at cost price : and since the early part of the year National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil—"Welfare Foods," formerly distributed under the

auspices of the Ministry of Food, have been dispersed at these centres. In addition, in special cases, schoolchildren may be examined and parents advised, although, of course, this is not a regular feature of this work.

(a) BURTONWOOD :

Methodist Sunday School, Phipps Lane.
 Medical Officer—Dr. Christian.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss M. Williams.
 Sessions—Weekly, each Thursday, 10.0 a.m. - 12 noon.

(b) CROFT :

Memorial Institute, Mustard Lane.
 Medical Officer—Dr. G. Ellis.
 Health Visitor in charge—Mrs. Griffiths.
 Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Mondays, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

(c) PADGATE :

Methodist Sunday School, Padgate Lane.
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss S. M. Hart.
 Sessions—Weekly, each Wednesday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

(d) PENKETH :

Methodist Sunday School, Chapel Lane.
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss W. Henry.
 Sessions—Weekly, each Monday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

(e) SANKEY :

Sankey Day Nursery, Marina Avenue.
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss W. Henry.
 Sessions—Weekly, Friday, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

(f) WINWICK :

Methodist Church Hall, Golborne Road.
 Medical Officer—Dr. G. Ellis.
 Health Visitor in charge—Mrs. Griffiths.
 Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Thursdays, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

(g) WOOLSTON :

Old Church of England School, Warren Lane.
 Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge—Miss S. M. Hart.
 Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Thursdays, 2.0-4.0 p.m.

During the year under review the following attendances were made at the above Welfare Centres :—

Number of individual children attending :

Born in 1955	255
„ „ 1954	205
„ „ 1950-53	258
Total	<u>718</u>

Number of attendances made by children :

Under 1 year of age	4,655
1 - 2 years of age	1,066
2 - 4 „ „	1,408
Total	<u>7,129</u>

In addition, expectant mothers made 168 attendances at these Centres.

(5) MIDWIFERY ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) Domiciliary. One whole-time domiciliary midwife and five district nurse/midwives are engaged on this work within the Rural District, in the employment of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and the Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts. These ladies normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their homes, but the principle of the expectant mothers' free choice of midwife, (as of doctor), is well established. Each has a motor-car transport at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

The names and addresses of these ladies are :—

WHOLE-TIME MIDWIFE :

Mrs. M. A. Lawton, 21 Marina Avenue, Sankey. Tel. No. Warr. 2251.

WHOLE-TIME NURSE/MIDWIVES :

Miss L. M. Liptrot, 26 Hawthorne Grove, Paddington. Tel. No. Warr. 429.

Mrs. T. F. McConnell, 56 Haley Road South, Burtonwood. Tel. No. Newton 3217.

Mrs. K. M. McCarron, 20 Brookside Avenue, Sankey. Tel. No. Penketh 214.

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23 Bevin Avenue, Culcheth. Tel.
No. Culcheth 2110.

Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300 Padgate Lane, Padgate. Tel.
No. Warr. 1834.

A total of 146 babies were born in their own homes during the year ; with possibly one or two exceptions, their mothers were either actually delivered, or attended, by the midwives and nurse/midwives detailed above. Only one case of Puerperal Pyrexia and one Maternal death were recorded during the year.

(6) HEALTH VISITING ARRANGEMENTS.

This work has been carried out by four whole-time and fully trained Health Visitors, who combine with health visiting duties those of School Nurse. These domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision and of the health education of the families, are, of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above.

The names and addresses of the Health Visitors are :—

for Sankey, Penketh and Cuerdley :

Miss W. Henry, 38 Greens Road, Whiston, Prescott.

for Padgate, Woolston, Houghton Green :

Miss S. M. Hart, 13 Dovedale Road, Liverpool, 18.

for Burtonwood :

Miss M. Williams, 16 Ruskin Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.

for Winwick and Croft :

Mrs. E. I. Griffiths, 33 Wigan Road, Standish, Wigan.

(7) HOME NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Home nursing is undertaken by five whole-time nurse/midwives.

The demand for their services has continued to grow during the year, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, an extension of the staff is contemplated within the near future.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are :—

Miss L. M. Liptrot, 16 Hawthorne Grove, Paddington.
Phone No.: Warrington 4297.

Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300 Padgate Lane, Padgate.
Phone No.: Warrington 1834.

Mrs. T. F. McConnell, 56 Haley Road South, Burtonwood.
Phone No.: Newton-le-Willows 3217.

Mrs. K. M. McCarron, 20 Brookside Avenue, Sankey.
Phone No.: Penketh 2147.

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23 Bevin Avenue, Culcheth.
Phone No.: Culcheth 2110.

(8) HOME HELP ARRANGEMENTS.

This is "permissory" service provided by the County Council through the No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public. Its aim is to provide domestic help, when required, by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, pregnancy, mental deficiency, or to assist in the care of a child or children under school-leaving age. The service has expanded considerably during the year as members of the public have become more fully aware of the facilities provided, and it has now required the appointment of an Assistant Home Help Organiser to cope with the additional work.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time "Helps"; no whole-time workers are employed. A number of "Helps" are, however, paid a retaining fee in consideration of their undertaking to be available when required.

The Home Help Organiser, and the Assistant Home Help Organiser are :—

Organiser. Miss P. M. Butler.

Assistant. Miss M. MacLean.

Both these ladies may be communicated with at the Divisional Health Offices, Winwick. (Tel. Warrington 3644).

(9) MENTAL HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS.

The district is covered for this purpose by two full-time Authorised Officers of No. 10 Health Division and by a lady mental health worker, who deal with the various aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts and Mental Treatment Act. The names and addresses of these officers are :—

Mr. P. D. Parker, 12 Kenyon Lane, Lowton, near Warrington.

Mr. F. Griffin, Lowton House, Newton Road, Lowton.

Miss M. V. Phillips, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick.

(10) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (INCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND THE PROVISION OF CONVALESCENT ACCOMMODATION.

(1) Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis; "illness" includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such

arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of nursing and ancillary equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

(2) Responsibility for the supervision of cases of tuberculosis in the homes and for that of family contacts, to ensure appropriate examinations and advice by the Chest Physician, now devolves on a single health visitor, covering the whole of the Rural District, and working in the closest contact with the Chest Physicians at clinics in Warrington, Widnes and St. Helens. This is a most difficult, almost impossible task, utilising only the available public transport service, and it is greatly to be hoped that the Health Visitor concerned will shortly be able to use a car when carrying out her duties. The name and official address of the Health Visitor and details of the Chest Clinic sessions concerned with Rural District cases are given below :—

Miss M. Monks, c/o Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick.

CHEST CLINICS :

Warrington General Hospital—

Sessions: Tuesday evening, 5.30—6.30 p.m.; Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.; Friday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.

Widnes, Chapel Street—

Sessions: Monday, Tuesday and Friday ; 2.0—4.0 p.m.

Newton-le-Willows Chest Clinic, Cottage Hospital, Bradlegh Road—

Sessions: Monday, 9.0 a.m.—12 noon ; Wednesday, 9.0 a.m.—12 noon.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

As regards Health Education (a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness), it is pertinent here to emphasise that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria are available to all who desire it for themselves or for their children, either through the family Doctor (who undertakes it at his home or at his surgery as part of his duties to the patient) or, on request, by appointment. Such services may be obtained at one of the Immunisation sessions which are held at approximately monthly intervals in schools at Great Sankey, Penketh and Padgate. Immunisation of infants and small children is also undertaken—when circumstances warrant—at the Child Welfare Centres at Burtonwood, Winwick, and Croft.

Although still unsatisfactory, the position in regard to both Immunisation and Vaccination has improved somewhat during the year, particularly that of Immunisation, due in all probability to the fact that additional “antigens” (inoculation materials) have been brought into use, which give a material degree of protection against Whooping Cough and tetanus (lock jaw) as well as against Diphtheria. The offer of these additional safeguards has been well received by mothers, many of whom, although having no personal knowledge of or contact with diphtheria, have first hand experience of the very protracted and harassing effects of Whooping Cough.

During the year, a total of 309 children under 15 years of age completed the full course of Immunisation against Diphtheria of which 292 were under the age of five years. In addition to the above, 275 children all of school age, received reinforcement or “booster” injections, making a grand total of 584.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population (under the age of 15 years) in an immunised state as at 31st December, 1955, was 60% as against a figure of 66% for the child population in No. 10 Health Division as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 129 children under one year of age underwent primary vaccination, of which 124 were successful, whilst of 12 persons over the age of 15 years who received primary vaccination 10 were successfully vaccinated. In addition to the above, a total of 51 persons were re-vaccinated, all but 3 successfully.

If one deducts from the total of 457 live births in 1954 belonging to the district the 12 infant deaths in 1955—this means that out of the 445 survivors only 129 underwent primary vaccination, or approximately one in every three babies. This dangerously low proportion can only be viewed with serious dismay.

SECTION X.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case also, is on a divisional basis. The main provision of Part III relate to the provision of accommodation for persons who, by virtue of circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, are without lodging ; and to Welfare Services in general for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities.

The approved scheme of the County Council in regard to Welfare utilises very fully the services rendered by the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation.

Section 47 of this Act prescribes the procedure whereby aged and infirm persons, if not receiving adequate care and attention in their own homes, may, by a Court Order, be removed to a suitable hospital following a hearing by the Court of evidence in support of a certificate issued by the Medical Officer of Health after close consideration of all the circumstances of the case. Whilst the later Act amends the original procedure to make it speedily effective in cases of emergency.

Section 50 is of importance in that it places on this County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when "it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority."

No action under either of these sections has been called for during the year.

SECTION XI.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

In the main, this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of this Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day-to-day operation of the service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Warrington Rural District lies administratively within the responsibility of the Children's Officer for the Leigh area ; an area newly constituted during 1953, to which Miss E. Cole was appointed as Area Children's Officer, with offices in Leigh itself. The reorganisation within the Children's Department has made possible a closer and more effective liaison between that department and my own as Divisional Medical Officer.

Fortunately the days of serious neglect and wilful brutality have receded, but there still exists an appreciable number of cases where minor degrees of cruelty and neglect arise often as the result of indifference or simply inadequacy on the part of the parents. Such cases must give rise to concern in the minds of a number of different groups of social workers : Children's Visitors, Health Visitors, Inspectors of the N.S.P.C.C., etc. — and are not infrequently complicated by insanitary and overcrowded housing conditions, or the frank mental backwardness or defectiveness of parents and/or children. In order to integrate all viewpoints, to consider the action most appropriate and the officer in whose particular sphere of influence the probable remedy lies, regular case conferences are held (at two monthly intervals) and are attended by representatives of both statutory authorities and voluntary agencies which have the interests and welfare of children at heart. These conferences have been most valuable in enabling effective supervisory remedial measures to be undertaken.
